

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes new Fig. 10 and new Fig. 11 in response to the objection by the Examiner in the present Office action.

Attachment: New Sheet of Drawings

REMARKS

The Applicants have reviewed the Office action dated January 31, 2005 and thank Examiner Binda for his detailed review of the pending claims and indication of allowable subject matter in of claims 2-6, 8, 11, 14 & 15. In response to the Office action, the Applicants have amended claims 2, 8-9, 11-12, 14, 16 & 18 and canceled claims 1, 7, 10, 13, 19-20. No new claims have been added. Accordingly, claims 2-6, 8-9, 11-12 and 14-18 remain in the present application. In amending the claims no new matter has been added to the application. The Applicants request reconsideration of the remaining claims in view of the amendments above and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 2-6, 8, 11, 14 and 15 contain allowable subject matter but are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Hence, claims 2, 8, 11 and 14 have been amended in the present response. Each of these claims have been amended to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claims 2, 8, 11 and 14 are allowable independent claims.

Further, dependent claims 3-6, 9, 12, 15 & 17 and multiple dependent claims 16 & 18 each depend from the allowable independent claims. These claims define further features and hence they are also allowable. The Applicants respectfully request allowance of all remaining claims of the present application, specifically claims 2-6, 8-9, 11-12 and 14-18.

Information Disclosure Statement

In response to the Examiner's note in the present Office action that the information disclosure statement filed on December 5, 2003 failed to comply with 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2), the Applicants would like to direct the Examiner's attention to the new information disclosure statement and transmittal with fee included with the present response. The Applicants believe the present information disclosure statement with transmittal and fee is proper and request consideration of the documents in due course.

Drawings

The Examiner in the present action objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.83(a) because the drawings failed to show the following claim limitations: a) energy

absorption surfaces interfering with the inner joint and the rollers; b) the outer joint part operated in the extended range; and c) a displaceable grease cover.

In response, the Applicants include a new Figures 10 & 11 and have added paragraphs [0022.1] and [0022.2] accordingly. While Figures 10 & 11 are new to the present application, the subject matter is fully described in the detailed description of the application as-filed. Therefore, adding Figures 10 & 11 does not constitute adding new matter.

Specifically, Figures 10 & 11 illustrate each of the energy absorbing surfaces present in a single constant velocity joint. Further, Figures 10 & 11 illustrate the inner joint part and rollers interfering with the energy absorption surfaces while the outer joint part operates in the extended range. The Applicants believe that the inclusion of Figures 10 & 11 addresses the objection to the drawings for portions a) and b) described above and respectfully request removal of the objection.

Regarding portion c) of the objection to the drawings, the Applicants have amended paragraph [0033] of the specification. As filed, the specification notes that the grease cover is element 48 as illustrated throughout several of the figures. Further, the Applicants have clarified through amendment that the grease cover 48 is also displaceable. One skilled in the art is familiar with displaceable grease covers in use with constant velocity joints and the illustration of element 48 in the Figures is sufficient. For at least this reason the Applicants respectfully request removal of the objection to the drawings.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.71 and 1.75 (d)(1) because the detailed description fails to provide proper antecedent basis for claim 17 and claim 20, lines 5 & 6. In response, the Applicants have amended paragraph [0033] of the specification.

As described above, paragraph [0033] of the specification has been amended to further define grease cap 48 as displaceable. The Applicants believe this amendment overcomes the objection of the Examiner and the respectfully requests the objection be removed.

Regarding, claim 20, the claim has been canceled in the present response. Therefore the objection is now moot.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 1 and 19 were objected to by the Examiner as containing unclear or inconsistent language. In the present response, each of these claims were canceled. However, when amending the claims containing allowable subject matter, the Examiner's recommendations regarding claim 1 were incorporated.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102(b), (e) and 35 USC 103(a)

The amendments to the claims described above structure the claims such that there is allowable subject matter in each remaining independent claim. Therefore, any substantive rejections based on prior art are moot in view of the above amendments.

CONCLUSION

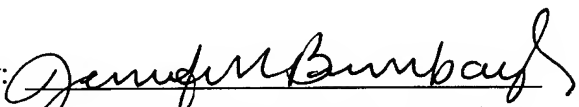
In view of the above amendments and remarks, each of the presently pending claims in the application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be passed to issue.

Applicants respectfully request a three-month extension of time via the attached petition and fee. All other fees are believed to be properly noted with the accompanying transmittal forms. However, if any additional fees are due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 07-1360 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

GKN Driveline North America, Inc.

Dated: July 21, 2005

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Attachments